

District III Advisory Board Minutes

www.wichita.gov

**September 7, 2005
7:00 p.m.**

**Wichita WATER Center
101 E. Pawnee**

The District III Advisory Board meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. at the Wichita WATER Center at 101 E Pawnee. The District III City Council member, Jim Skelton and ten (10) District Advisory Board members were in attendance. Seven (7) city staff were present and approximately twenty four (24) members of the public, most of whom signed in.

Members Present

Teresa Cook
Jim Gulick
William Ward
Joann Hartig
Charlotte Foster
Judy Dillard
John Kemp
Matt Foley
Dewayne Kitchen
Jesse Sheffield
CM Jim Skelton

Members Absent

Danny Harshbarger-Youth
Gerry Myers

Staff Present

Julie Linneman
Randy Sparkman
Deb Legge
Mark Stanberry
Kay Johnson
Officer Ginny Wylie
Vicki Mork

Guests

See page

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call to Order

Council Member Skelton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Foster (Dillard) moved that the minutes from the July 20, 2005 meeting be accepted with correction on page 7 changing public art to neighborhood beautification.

Action: Received and filed.

Public Agenda

1. Wichita Public Library

Julie Lenneman, Wichita Public Library presented information on various library programs and told about the great success of the summer reading program. She also passed out flyers on adult, children, teen, technology classes, and the Hispanic Heritage Celebration. Every library in Wichita is going to hold Medicare information sessions. Linwood Library offers a Women and Mystery series. The Library has asked staff to promote their programs.

Recommended Action: Provide comments/take appropriate action.

Staff Presentations

2. Community Policing

Officer Ginny Wylie, 25 Beat reported big burglary trend in and around K-15 and Pawnee. South Patrol has been working hard to catch the bad guys. Incidences of graffiti are down. She also announced 1800-3500 displaced storm victims are expected to arrive in Wichita in the next two days. Reviewed crime trends. Officer Miller reported auto thefts are on the rise. In most cases the owners of the vehicles are leaving keys in the cars. The graffiti project is working well.

Recommended Action: Receive and file.

3. City of Wichita Career Development Office

Sarah Gilbert, Career Development Office needs volunteers. She explained there are 12 volunteers total and four spots available. She asked for board nominations from DAB III.

Recommended Action: DAB members volunteer for appointment to the CSBG Review Committee.

4. Office of Central Inspection Neighborhood/Zoning Inspection code Enforcement

Deb Legge reported Keith Hall is their newest inspector and he has been assigned to the area of Kellogg-Pawnee and Palisade-Washington Streets. He was hired away from Environmental Services. **Dillard** asked if Leonard Fox would continue to cover most of her area in South Wichita. **Legge** said that while his area had shrunk a bit he would still be her neighborhood inspector. **Legge** explained process involved in dividing up city sections for staff.

Foster asked several questions and expressed concern about proper distribution of the violation lists she has been mailing into Vicki Mork. **Legge** explained that Mork sends them to both her and Mark Bradshaw in Environmental Services. She also explained some housing inspectors have large caseloads, not unusual to have 4200-4500 housing violations pending any one time.

Hartig made comments concerning the condition of property in her neighborhood. **Legge** informed DAB that OCI had just received additional board up and abatement funds. **Hartig** asked about property 1800 S. Broadway. **Legge** explained the property will be boarded up Saturday and is going for condemnation hearing in October. **Kay Johnson** added that a contractor will be out to mow the yard. **Hartig** requested that Keith Hall attend the next South Central Progressive Neighborhood Association meeting.

Kemp asked about RV storage wanted to make sure he was within the law and was assured of the by **Legge**. **Foley** said half a dozen housed demolished and property owners ignore the lots that make a problem for ES. **Legge** agreed it's a problem and the best solution is to build infill housing on them.

Sheffield said there were problems with cars parked on grass. **Legge** said that eight of her staff are working four, ten hour days until the end of daylight savings time to visit problem parking in early evening. She emphasized the importance of having a good address on problem properties. **Johnson** said they have to allow property owners time to correct the problem

Gulick asked about car storage in a back yard. **Randy Sparkman** said many factors must be considered. **Legge** said a few years ago consensus process involving neighborhood folks was formed around the issue but the project died before council considered it.

Dave Robbins, 914 Silverdale Ct. said house next door has two salvage cars that were towed in and both are across from the street. One was finally moved. He sees this as a deliberate act. One bad property can blight the neighborhood and he feels it's an intentional act. He suggests this be treated as criminal proceeding.

John Dickson, 6054 S. Minneapolis asked if cases can still be tracked on the City of Wichita website. **Legge** said it's still there and explained where exactly it is. **Dillard** thinks it's helpful.

Larry Manny, 1116 Alturas asked if tickets were issued to people who park on their lawn and **Legge** explained they give people a chance to correct the matter before issuing a ticket. **Larry Manny** also commended Kay Johnson on her newsletter.

Councilman Skelton said as elected Council member it's his job to evaluate City processes and offer policy changes. He thinks neighborhood code enforcement handled by both ES and OCI may be combined. Jim suggested Council review and evaluate the current process utilized by both OCI and ES. He understands staff is stretched thin and feels it is worth looking at, changes may be made to save money and improve customer service.

Hartig thought it was a good idea. **Foster** said good. **Skelton** says he'll provide update on this issue at next DAB meeting. He would like to see more tickets for housing violations. He thanked Johnson, Legge and Sparkman for their attendance at tonight's meeting. Acknowledging the many difficulties associated with neighborhood enforcement in the community. A big project ordinance review may involve charges at State level also.

Anita Fleming, 5415 S. Ash expressed concern with unprotected or inadequately protected swimming pools. Johnson said her department works with these pool owners extensively.

Larry Manny praised ES brochure again. **Johnson** asked if Mork had the electronic version saying if not she would send it to her. **Foley** says good work of OCI can be at District Court level.

Recommended Action: Receive and File.

5. Wichita Housing and Community Services Department

Mark Stanberry began his presentation by reviewing the past process and history of the Keystone Apartment project. He explained that Rob Snyder is now seeking a waiver for the requirement that 20% of the apartments be set-aside for market rate tenants, ie controlled rents. Staff supports the request for waiver. The additional funding made possible by the waiver will allow paving parking lots, roof replacement and installation of central air conditioning units. Request is warranted as it improves the viability of the project. Rent amounts between regular and market rate units only a \$20 difference.

Gulick asked why the buyers of tax credits care about the rental operation. **Snyder** explained he had had a crash course in tax credits with this project. It was recommended that he pursue this as the former owners of Keystone Apartments had utilized tax credits and it's better for the project is that status continues. He explained the buyers of tax credits will have a vested interest in the project for next 15 years. The tax credits affect depreciation. The venture continues to be a good project and there will only be eight apartments at market rate. **Snyder** said all windows in the apartments will be replaced. **Foley** asked about rents amounts **Snyder** said current rents are \$299 they will probably increase to \$325 per month.

Recommended Action: Dillard (Foley) moved to recommend endorsement of approval of resolution of support with these changes for Housing Tax Credit. Motion passed unanimously. 10:0

Board Agenda

6. Updates, Issues, and Reports

Councilmember Skelton stated he supports selling confiscated guns, which is a controversial issue. **Hartig** said she had been contacted by a lot of folks that are not in favor of selling confiscated guns. **Sheffield, Dillard, Cook** are not in favor of selling confiscated guns. **Foley** heard a lot of comments says if guns are sold through licensed gun dealers it's a legal process may reap the City \$40,000-60,000. **Gulick** favors selling the guns maybe should sell them out of town. He doesn't think destroying 600 guns per year is much of a percentage of the guns in Wichita legal or illegal.

Skelton clarified illegal guns would continue to be destroyed. **Ward** agrees with Foley and Gulick. Some of these guns have value to collectors. He hopes the money will help Wichita Police Department. **Kitchen** supports selling the weapons.

Skelton said our County allows citizen ownership of guns firearms readily available. Thinks it's acceptable to resell the guns through legal channels. He agrees that illegal weapons, broken guns and Saturday night specials (cheap 22 caliber guns) will continue to be destroyed. He compared the resale of guns to the resale of confiscated cars. He doesn't see this as a potential liability issue for the City of Wichita. He's inclined to support this change. Thinks the gun sales would net about \$40,000, a worthy amount.

Kitchen reported he is working with John Kemp, CM Skelton's appointment to the Park Board to rename Whitney Village Park to Phyllis Hall Memorial Park. The issue is to be considered at the October 8th Park Board meeting. The Neighborhood cleanup will be in October and he is asking for volunteers.

Kemp says K-15 Neighborhood Association picnic to be held in October. They use it as a recruitment tool. He is organizing the group to create a park on South Volutsia double lot. Currently working with property owner.

Hartig says the South Central Progressive Association and the South Central Improvement Alliance Neighborhood Association is working on revitalization of South Broadway area.

Gulick reported a Grandview Heights Neighborhood Association sub committee is meeting with representatives from Public Works Flood Control Department tomorrow at Bluff and Mt. Vernon Streets at 1:30p.m. Currently the City of Wichita is purchasing property in the flood plain in the area.

Ward said Meadowlark Neighborhood Association, with New Orleans in our minds, asks what is the City of Wichita evacuation plan. **Council Member Skelton** said he is horrified at what's going on in New Orleans and is extremely concerned with our City's emergency plan. He asked Kay Johnson to speak. She said the City of Wichita is also concerned and 70 local people went to FEMA training. FEMA said Wichita's preparedness is in the top three in the nation. **Skelton** will invite Sedgwick County Emergency Management to a meeting soon in October or November.

Skelton also reported the East Mt. Vernon Neighborhood Association expanded boundaries in a recent meeting. They had over 50 in attendance at their last neighborhood association meeting. They are working on improving Cessna Park. He also reported on his first constituent breakfast, which was held on August 27. There was a big turnout, 55 people attended. The next meeting will be held on October 15, 2005 at 10 am at Potbelly's Restaurant, 1211 E. 47th Street South. Park improvement projects for District III will soon be announced.

Foley said Hilltop Association of Neighborhood Development is having their cleanup on October 8th followed by a picnic. Foley made motion that Whitney Village Park be renamed Phyllis Hall Memorial Park in honor of her tireless efforts to improve Planeview.

Foley (Dillard) moved that Whitney Park be renamed to honor former DAB III member Phyllis Hall. Motion passed unanimously.

Foley reported two home invasions in Hilltop. He cautioned against opening doors after dark.

Dillard said her area has been quiet. And to follow up on her concern about kids skating under the overpass on South Hydraulic she is pleased to report a rail is to be installed. **Skelton** said there would be a meeting on September 28th at 7 p.m. at the Colvin Neighborhood City Hall regarding the South Wichita Haysville Plan.

Foster said Fabrique Neighborhood Association will not have a meeting in September. A cleanup is scheduled for October 1st and they will need volunteers. The next meeting will be held on October 25th.

Cook with South Central Progressive Neighborhood Association related she recently attended a Visioneering meeting. She is interested in implementing noted changes with businesses.

Skelton said there would be a South Central Improvement Alliance (SCIA) presentation at the September 21st DAB meeting of their plan for neighborhood revitalization. Currently Hilltop and Planeview are the only two neighborhood revitalization areas but the SCIA is soon to be included. The process is underway.

Sheffield reported the next South City Neighborhood Association meeting is to be on September 15th at the Dawson Methodist Church. City Manager George Kolb, Kay Johnson and Kurt Schroeder will be at the meeting.

Skelton provided project update on widening and straightening Pawnee. Properties adjacent to the road have been bought, utilities will be moved at the end of this year and then early next year construction on Pawnee will begin.

Skelton also reported good news about South City Fire Department. He is exploring a co-op fire station through the consolidation of City and County fire Departments. He believes this will be beneficial to South City.

Sheffield continued his report saying a clean up was scheduled for October 22nd. The gas station has been torn down at Victoria and Pawnee. He would like to have some incentives for business to move in around South City.

Kemp asked if it would be possible to get property owned by City mowed from Canal Route to Washington on the north side of Pawnee.

John Stevens announced Wichita Independent Neighborhood a regular meeting will be tomorrow at 5:30 p.m. at the United Way Building located at 245 N. Water. Also on October 29 WIN will hold Neighborhood University at the Police Academy on north Amidon. He

reminded everyone that board members of neighborhood associations are entitled to receive a copy of WIN's newsletter.

It was also announced that the Gang Coalition meeting will be held on September 20th, 7 p.m.at Police Training Center.

Councilmember Skelton will be out of town for next meeting on September 21st. President Pro Tem Bill Ward will lead meeting. **Foster** said she would also be out of town.

Meeting adjourned by Skelton at 9:10 p.m.

Recommended Action: Address each item as appropriate.

7. Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting for District Advisory Board III will be September 21, 2005 at the Water Center 101 E. Pawnee at 7:00 p.m.

No Action Required

Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted,

Vicki Mork, Neighborhood Assistant

Visitors

Joe & Anita Fleming	5145 S. Ash	67216
Elena Ingle	3608 Meadow Ln	67218
Carole Campbell	2821 S. Mosley	67211
Crystal Gurrola	1920 S. Market	67211
Bill Gress	1329 S. Bluffview	67218
Larry & Kathy Manny	1116 Alturas	67216
Donna Thorton	2714 Southfork	67216
Claudia Lee	2826 Greenwood	67216
Lynch Novotny	1209 Jump	67211
John Dickson	6054 S. Minneapolis	67216
Gerold Miller	1333 Alturas	67216
John & Debra Stevens	3125 E. Boston	67211
David Robbins	920 Silverdale Ct.	67218
Annette Schoenthaler	1314 Galena	67216
Betty Strickland	1302 Galena	67216
Franklin Bergquist	4225 S. Laura Cir	67216
Marsha Mendenhall	2902 Sennett	67211
Connie Rosenkrans	1636 S. Green	67211